

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /027 W

----- 029395

R 090548Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7232

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJ: CIVAIR - US-AUSTRALIA USER CHARGE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 00536

1. QUESTION DISCUSSING USER CHARGES WITH US IN EARLY FEBRUARY HAS BEEN RAISED TWICE WITH ME BY C.C. HALTON, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT.

2. HE IS PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE HIS CIVIL AIR PEOPLE IN MELBOURNE TO AGREE TO FEB 2-3 TALKS PROVIDED THEY THEY CAN BE FILLED AS "INFORMAL TALKS" AND THAT US SIDE DOES NOTHING TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT FEB 2-3 TALKS ARE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS. THE AUSTRALIAN REASONS ARE THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS TO BE RECONSIDERED AND PUT BEFORE CABINET MID-FEBRUARY,

INCLUDING QUESTION OF POSSIBLE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON USER CHARGES. WITH NEW MINISTER AND, ACCORDING TO PRESS, POSSIBILITY THERE MAY BE REORGANIZATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CIVIL AIR AND OTHER TRANSPORT MATTERS IN NEW MINISTRY, HE DOES NOT WISH ANYTHING TO TAKE PLACE WHICH COULD GIVE RISE TO INCREASING PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES.

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3. HE UNDERSTANDS PROVISION US LAW AND DOMESTIC PRESSURES

NOT TO DELAY MATTER AND FACT THAT CIVIL AIR DELEGATION
WILL BE IN AREA IN EARLY FEBRUARY.

4. YU ALSO TOLD ME THAT SOME OF POLICY ASPECTS OF THIS
MATTER ARE ACTUALPT BEING HANDLED THROUGH HIS OFFICE HERE
IN CANBERRA AND NOT IN MELBOURNE.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE HALTON IS SINCERE AND DO NOT ACCEPT
IDEA CONTAINED REFTTEL PARA B THAT THE REASONS GIVEN ARE A
"CONVENIENT EXCUSE".

6. ACTION REQUESTED: SUGGEST WE BE AUTHORIZED TO ADVISE
HALTON THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED HOLD LINE THAT FEB 2-3
TALKS ARE "INFORMAL TALKS ON MATTERS OFMUTUAL INTEREST IN
CIVIL AVIATION".
PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

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